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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,023	10/06/2000	Joseph B. Rowlands	5580-00300	2300

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[REDACTED] ART UNIT      [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2189

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/684,023	ROWLANDS ET AL.
	Examiner Kim T. Huynh	Art Unit 2189
-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --		
<b>Period for Reply</b>		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).</li> <li>- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</li> </ul>		
<b>Status</b>		
<p>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 October 2000</u>.</p> <p>2a)<input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL.                  2b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</p>		
<b>Disposition of Claims</b>		
<p>4)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-30</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-30</u> is/are rejected.</p> <p>7)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>		
<b>Application Papers</b>		
<p>9)<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on <u>06 October 2000</u> is/are: a)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner.            Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).</p> <p>11)<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner.            If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.</p> <p>12)<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>		
<b>Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120</b>		
<p>13)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a)<input type="checkbox"/> All    b)<input type="checkbox"/> Some * c)<input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</li> <li>2.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.</li> <li>3.<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</li> </ol> <p>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p> <p>14)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).</p> <p>a)<input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.</p> <p>15)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.</p>		
<b>Attachment(s)</b>		
<p>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.</p> <p>4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>		

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claims 17-21, the preamble "A method comprising" renders the claim indefinite because it is not suggesting what the scope of the claimed invention is. –

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Schnell (US Patent 6,199,133) *Aug (646702)*

a. As per claims 1, 9, 22, 24, Schnell discloses a first agent configured for coupling to a bus to which a plurality of agents are capable of being coupled, said first agent comprising an arbiter<sup>Fig 1A, 101</sup> coupled to receive a plurality of request signals (col.5, lines 1-3) each of said plurality of request signals corresponding to a respective agent of said plurality of agents, (col.3, lines 32-36) wherein each of said plurality of request signals is indicative of whether or not said respective agent is arbitrating for said bus (col.3, lines 32-44) and wherein said arbiter is coupled to receive an agent identifier transmitted on said bus as part of a transaction, said agent identifier identifying a second agent using said bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to determine if said first agent wins an arbitration for said bus request signals and said agent identifier. (col.3, lines 32-63)

b. As per claim 17 (as best understood)

- maintaining a state indicative of (i) which of said plurality of agents are higher priority than said first agent are higher priority than said first agent for said arbitration; (col.12, lines 45-50), (ii) which of said plurality of agents are lower priority than said first agent for said arbitration. (col.12, lines 45-50) *Col 5 15 - 37*  
*Col 7 21 - 44*
- receiving an agent identifier indicative of a second agent using said bus, said agent identifier transmitted on said bus as part of a transaction; (col.3, lines 32-36), (col.11, lines 18-43), (col.9, lines 53-65) *Col 5 , 15 - 37*

- updating said state responsive to said agent identifier. (col.9, 3-65)  
*wl5, 15-37*

c. As per claims 2, 10 Schnell discloses arbiter comprises one or more registers configured to store a state indicative of:

- which of said plurality of agents are higher priority than said first agent are higher priority than said first agent for said arbitration; (col.12, lines 45-50)  
*wl5, 15-37*
- which of said plurality of agents are lower priority than said first agent for said arbitration. (col.12, lines 45-50) *wl7, 31-44*

d. As per claims 3, 11 Schnell discloses arbiter further includes a circuit configured to generate a grant signal to said first agent responsive to said plurality of request signals and said state, said grant signal indicative of whether or not said first agent wins said arbitration. (col.11, lines 18-43), (col.9, lines 53-67) *wl6, 26-65*

e. As per claims 4, 12, 26, Schnell discloses circuit is further responsive to said agent identifier to generate said grant signal. (col.11, lines 59-67), (col.12, lines 1-50) *wl6, 26-65*

f. As per claims 5, 13, 23, Schnell discloses arbiter further comprises a circuit configured to update said state responsive to said agent identifier, wherein said circuit is configured to update said state to indicate that said second agent identified by said agent identifier is lower priority than said first agent if said second agent is different than said first agent. (col.9, lines 3-67) *wl5, 15-37*

g. As per claims 6, 14, 25 Schnell discloses circuit is further configured to update said state to indicate that each of said plurality of agents is higher priority than said first agent responsive to said first agent winning said arbitration. (col.9, lines 3-67)

*wl7, 31-44*

h. As per claims 7, 15, 27 Schnell discloses bus is split transaction bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to arbitrate for an address portion of said bus, and wherein said agent identifier is portion of a transaction identifier for said transaction.

(col.9, lines 3-67)

wl 5, 15 - 37

i. As per claims 8, 16, 28, 29-30, Schnell discloses bus is a split transaction bus and wherein said arbiter is configured to arbitrate for a data portion of said bus and wherein said agent identifier is separate from a transaction identifier for said transaction.

(col.9, lines 3-67)

wl 5, 15 - 37

j. As per claim 18, Schnell discloses updating comprises updating said state to indicate that said second agent is lower priority than said first agent if said second agent is different from said first agent. (col.9, lines 3-65) wl 7, 31 - 44

k. As per claim 19, Schnell discloses method further comprising :

- receiving a plurality of request signals, each of said plurality of request signals corresponding to respective agent of said plurality of agents and indicative of whether or not said respective agent is arbitrating for said bus; (col.11, lines 59-67), (col.12, lines 1-50) wl 6, 26 - 45
- determining if said first agent wins said arbitration responsive to said state and said plurality of request signals. (col.9, lines 3-67) wl 6, 26 - 65

l. As per claim 20, Schnell discloses method determining is further responsive to said agent identifier. (col.11, lines 59-67), (col.12, lines 1-50)

wl 5, 15 - 37

m. As per claim 21, Schnell discloses method further comprising updating said state to indicate that each of said plurality of agents is higher priority than said first agent if said first agent wins said arbitration. (col.9, lines 3-67) *wl6, 26-6'*

### ***Conclusion***

4. *Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM- 6:30PM.*

*If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)746-7249 for regular communications and (703)746-7238 for After Final communications.*

*Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.*

*Kim Huynh*

*March 3, 2003*



RUPAL DHARIA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER